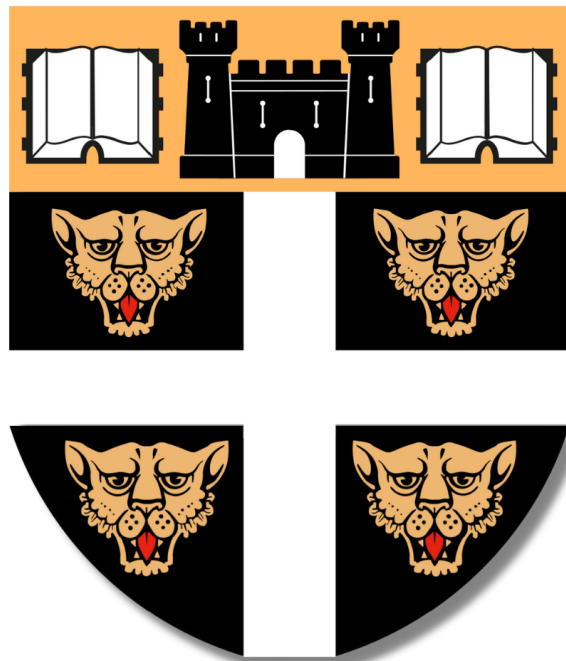


Alcohol Policy for Pupils

Dover College



Owner:	Deputy Head SS	Date: September 2022
Approved By:	SLT	Date: September 2022
Review Frequency	3 yearly	
Last reviewed on:	September 2022	
Next review due by:	September 2025	

1. EDUCATION ABOUT ALCOHOL

The school is aware that consumption of alcoholic drinks is an accepted practice within many areas of society today and that there are increasing pressures on young people to experiment with alcohol, with the potential risks of damage to health. It is therefore important that the school makes clear its position on alcohol so that pupils receive a consistent message from staff and parents.

We educate pupils about alcohol through the PSHE curriculum, by example, and by authorising moderate alcohol consumption by Sixth Formers under staff supervision at certain times. The safety and welfare of the pupils are the first priority of the school.

Parents are asked to support this and not to bring alcohol into the school in breach of the Code.

In this policy, alcohol means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and the scope of this policy includes obtaining, consuming and supplying alcohol.

2. LAW

Only Sixth Formers may drink alcohol. In keeping with the Licensing Act 2003, the only time when a Sixth Former under the age of 18 may consume alcohol is when:

- the individual is aged 16 or 17
- the alcohol is beer, wine or cider
- its consumption is at a table meal on relevant premises, and
- the individual is accompanied at the meal by an adult.

All of these conditions must be met. Failure to do so is an offence.

3. CONSUMPTION

In order to encourage a moderate and balanced attitude to alcohol consumption, the following rules apply:

- Under no circumstances are spirits or fortified wines to be consumed.
- Sixth Formers are limited to a maximum of two large cans of regular-strength beer or cider or 2 standard glasses of table wine.
- Pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are not to be given alcoholic drinks.
- Alcohol is to be served only by adults.
- Alcohol is to be kept locked up and is to be strictly supervised by adult staff at organised school functions.
- Soft drinks and water are to be available at all events.
- Nobody should break the law by purchasing alcohol for under-18s in public houses or bars, nor should they allow under-18s to purchase their own alcohol.

As a matter of prudence, any member of staff organising a meal for sixth-formers which includes the possibility of alcoholic consumption must involve the pupils' Housemaster or Housemistress in advance and gain permission from the Deputy Head.

This policy applies equally to any school trips, whether they are during holiday or term time, within the UK or abroad.

Outside of these limited circumstances in which sixth formers may consume alcohol, pupils must not:

- bring alcohol, however they have acquired it, on to the school premises
- be impaired by alcohol while on school premises or in the care of the school
- be in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtain or supply alcohol to another
- bring the school into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the school at the time.

If a member of staff believes a student possesses alcohol, it may be appropriate for them to carry out:

- a search of school property, e.g., students' lockers or desks; and/or
- a search of personal property (e.g., bag or pencil case within a locker).

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress in accordance with the advice from the Department for Education contained within their publication 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation' or successor publications.

4. SUSPICION OF MISUSE

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil has contravened this code by the illicit or excessive consumption of alcohol, he/she must report the situation to the pupil's Housemaster/Housemistress or directly to the Deputy Head, who will decide if further investigation is warranted.

Every complaint or statement of concern made to staff in relation to alcohol use by pupils at school will be investigated, including anywhere alcohol use by pupils has in any way brought the school into disrepute.

5. ALCOHOL TESTING

Pupils may be asked to undergo a breathalyser test where there is reasonable suspicion of involvement in the illicit consumption of alcohol.

The relevant consent to a breathalyser test is that of the pupil, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided she / he is of sufficient maturity and understanding. Where the pupil consents, parents are not required to give consent for a breathalyser test but will normally be notified in advance of the test. As timing is of critical importance, however, this may not always be possible. Every effort will, however, be made to contact parents in advance of the test. If a pupil refuses to give consent to a breathalyser test, they will be warned that the school may proceed as if there had been a positive test.

If a test result is 'positive', thereby indicating that the pupil has been involved in the illicit consumption of alcohol, the School's disciplinary procedures will be followed in accordance with the School's Pupil Behaviour Policy. The pupil can expect to receive sanctions listed below, in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy and Discipline, Exclusion and Required Removal Policy.

Testing procedures will be in accordance with standard good practice and will be carried out by a member of the School's medical department with the pupil's housemaster (or other member of boarding staff if his / her housemaster is unavailable).

6. SANCTIONS

Any pupil who fails to follow this code should expect to be dealt with severely, in accordance with the School's Pupil Behaviour Policy.

In particular, any pupil who purchases alcohol when under age, or who drinks alcohol purchased by others, while in the care of the school, must expect to be suspended from the school and for a serious breach of this policy or persistent minor breaches, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently.

If the pupil is expelled or required to leave, he / she and his / her parents will be offered a Governors' Review of the decision. Please see the School's Discipline, Exclusion and Required Removal Policy.

Pupils who are caught in the company of peers consuming alcohol will be subject to the same sanctions, regardless of whether or not they have consumed alcohol themselves.

The consumption and/or possession of any type of alcohol will result in the following sanctions:

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First offence: 2 days gating; **SLT detention**; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM)

Second offence: 3 days gating; **Internal suspension**; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM and a letter home from the Deputy Head)

Third offence: **External suspension**; Contact with parents (phone call or email from the HSM and a letter home from the Deputy Head)

Any further offence after the third offence is likely to result into exclusion.

The consumption of spirits could result in the sanction automatically jumping to the next level, depending on the amount consumed.